AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1-5 and add new claim 8 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving, through a network, <u>processing</u> data to be information-processed and electronic money by which payment for information processing is made;

making a request [[that]] <u>to determine</u> whether the received electronic money is valid or not <s>be checked</s>; and

when the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, automatically starting the processing of the <u>processing</u> data to be information-processed.

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving, through a network, <u>a)</u> data to be information-processed and <u>b)</u> electronic money by which payment for information processing is made;

relating the received data to be information-processed [[and]] <u>with</u> the electronic money by which payment for information processing is made;

making a request [[that]] <u>to determine</u> whether the received electronic money is valid or not <s>be checked</s>; and

when the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, performing the processing of the data to be information-processed <u>which is</u> related to the <u>validated</u>

electronic money ~~confirmed to be valid~~.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic payment method comprising the steps of:

receiving, through a network, data to be information-processed and electronic money by which payment for information processing is made;

associating the data with the electronic money;

making a request [[that]] to determine whether the received electronic money is valid or not ~~be checked~~; and

when the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, starting the processing of the data which is associated with the [[valid]] validated electronic money.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for making payment by electronic money ~~in which~~ comprising:

a user side subsystem including a user's terminal,

an electronic money issuer side subsystem including an electronic money issuing server, and

a processor side subsystem including a data processor that performs a processing based on processing request data from the user,

wherein the user side subsystem, the electronic money issuer side subsystem and the processor side subsystem are connected to one another through a network,

wherein the user side subsystem transmits the processing request data and electronic money data including electronic money issued by the electronic money

issuer side subsystem ~~are transmitted from the user side subsystem~~ to the processor side subsystem,

the processor side subsystem transmits the electronic money data ~~is further transmitted from the processor side subsystem~~ to the electronic money issuer side subsystem,

the electronic money issuer side system determines whether the electronic money is valid or not ~~is checked~~, and

the processor side subsystem performs the processing based on the processing request data in accordance with a result of the [[check]] electronic money validation and transmits a request for payment for the processing to the electronic money issuer side subsystem.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic money processor comprising:

receiving member which receives a) processing request data transmitted from a user through a network and based on which a processing requested by the user is executed, and b) electronic money data transmitted from the user through the network and including electronic money issued by an electronic money issuer;

memory in which the processing request data received by the receiving member is stored;

transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money is valid or not; and

execution controller which controls execution of the processing based on the processing request data corresponding to the electronic money data and stored in

the memory in accordance with a result of the check of validity of the electronic

money.

6. (Original) An electronic money processor as claimed in claim 5, wherein

when the electronic money is not confirmed to be valid, said transmitter transmits

warning information that the electronic money is not confirmed to be valid, to the

user who transmitted the electronic money data including the electronic money.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising the electronic money

processor as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

an image forming portion in which execution of the processing based on the

processing request data is controlled by the execution control means of the

electronic money processor.

8. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

receiving member which receives print data transmitted from a user through a

network, and electronic money data corresponding to the print data transmitted from

the user through the network and including electronic money issued by an electronic

money issuer;

transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the

receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic

money is valid or not; and

image forming portion which processes the print data in accordance with a

result of the check of validity of the electronic money.